



Hampton Roads Chapter of ASPA

1990, 1992, 1993 & 1998 Newsletter Award Recipient

Nov/Dec 2002

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City of Virginia Beach

General Membership Luncheon Meeting

Speaker

Kenny Easley, Former NFL football player and current owners of the Norfolk Nighthawks.

Date

Friday, January 16, 2003

Location

Uncle Louie's Restaurant, 132 E. Little Creek Rd.,
Norfolk, VA (757) 480-1225

<http://norfolk.citysearch.com/profile/10601843/>

Time

11:30am - 1:30pm

Cost

Advanced Registration: \$18 for ASPA
Members/Non-members; \$15 for students

NO SHOWS WILL BE BILLED!

On-Site Registration: \$23 for ASPA
Members/Non-members; \$20 for students

Registration

ASPA members will receive registration forms in
the mail;

Register online at

www.hampton.gov/budget/asp

For Information Contact

Mark Woodward
(757) 594-7874

To Register Contact

[Sheila Guy](#)
(757) 727-6377

President's Message

As I write this President's Message close to the holidays, a time that is typically full of joy and quality time with family and friends, I cannot help but think about the pain we are facing in all of our communities that are a direct result of the State budget crisis. You and I are doubly impacted by the budget cuts since we have dual voices: one as citizen and one as public sector employee.

In the community where I live, Newport News, the pain is in the news on a daily basis. Christopher Newport University has cut programs and increased tuition in response to the budget cuts, which has left a deep scar between the City, the university community and the neighborhoods that surround the school. The local art institutions and museums have been deeply impacted as well and have had to cut back hours, close for one day a week or start changing user fees. And, on an even more serious note, a reduction in funding to help those most in need, including the mentally ill and those addicted to drugs, could lead to many unknown problems down the road as the disenfranchised attempt to be served with less dollars.

I also experience this pain on a professional level since I work in the Budget Office with the City of Hampton. I will see firsthand how Hampton deals with more impending cuts since I play a role in the construction of our municipal budget each year. Already in response to the Governors' first round of cuts, Hampton citizens are experiencing reduced and eliminated services such as the City Hall One Stop at the Mall and free E-filing of federal tax returns. These are not easy or fun decisions to make!

Governor Warner stated in his address to State agency heads on December 3rd, "Accept the fact that [we] are entering into...the most challenging fiscal time in the past 50 years." You can't get

more ominous than that!

So, what is our responsibility as both citizens and public servants? Certainly we are impacted as citizens if we live in a community with one less DMV or want to pay our personal property tax at the City Hall One Stop, only to find that it has closed due to State budget cuts. As citizens we can be patient as we wait in longer lines to pay a tax, get a car title or sit in traffic as a result of delayed road construction. We can play a civic role by sending letters and e-mails to our State legislators expressing concern over the State budget cuts and the impact they are having on our individual communities and region as a whole.

As public servants, it is more critical than ever to remind citizens and lawmakers that our profession is a good, honest one and that we will survive this budget crisis in better form than when it started. I am sure that we all review our organizations from time to time and implement processes that make them more efficient and effective, with less – this seems to have become the mantra of the public sector. But the fact is, that the public sector is good at what it does and no matter what, we will serve our citizens to the best of our ability. If that does not bring good cheer to our hearts, I don't know what will.

Good Cheer to all this holiday season!

Leslie Beauregard, Chapter President

Members' Corner

Norfolk Assistant City Manager **Sterling B. Cheatham** is heading to Wilmington, N.C. to be the city's new City Manager. Congratulations!

Mary Mayer-Hennelly, a former president of the Hampton Roads ASPA Chapter, has been re-

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elected to the American Library Association's (ALA) national council. With 60,000+ members, ALA is the country's premier organization advancing goals of the library community. Mayer-Hennelly will represent the Virginia Library Association's members. She serves as the Associate Vice President for Learning Resources at Tidewater Community College. Her credentials include a BA from the University of Massachusetts, an MLS from McGill University and an MPA earned at Old Dominion University.

Congratulations to **Mark Woodward**, City of Chesapeake, who has taken a position as Senior Planner in the Planning Department. He moves there from the Office of Intergovernmental Relations and Youth Services.

If anyone has news to share with fellow chapter members on a new job, promotion, award, etc., please contact [Leslie Beauregard](#), E-Newsletter Editor.

Membership Minute

Membership Chair, Tammy Foster-Johnson, would like to remind those of you who have let your membership expire, to renew your membership today! One of our goals is to increase our membership base, and every new and renewed membership helps us fulfill that goal. If you have questions, or are not sure whether or not your membership is current and up to date, please get in touch with Tammy at (757) 461-5968 or e-mail her at foster.johnson@att.net.

Professional Forum for Students - Public Service: How Will You Contribute?

The Hampton Roads Chapter of ASPA hosted its second annual **Professional Forum for Students** on Friday, October 25th on the campus of Thomas Nelson Community College. Approximately 50 students attended representing the following local universities: Norfolk State University, who holds the record for the second year in a row of allowing the most students to attend, Troy State University, Christopher Newport University and Old Dominion University. The Forum was co-sponsored with generous financial contributions from the Cities of Hampton, Newport News, and Suffolk, the Town of Smithfield, Christopher Newport University and Troy State University.

The day began with a welcome by the Professional Forum for Student's Chairwoman and Hampton Roads Chapter of ASPA Student Representative, Erica Garcia. Students then watched a short video entitled Salute To Excellence produced by the Public Employees Roundtable. The morning was completed with two workshop sessions: *Resume Writing and Interviewing* presented by Ann Small of the Virginia Employment Commission and *Job Transitioning for Military and Non-Traditional Students*, presented by Pete Sommer, City of Hampton and Tony Lorusso, Virginia Employment Commission.

The highlight of the day was certainly the luncheon speaker, Dr. George Zestos, Associate Professor of Economics at Christopher Newport University. Dr. Zestos, an expert in international economics, did a wonderful job portraying the history and future of our local, State and National economy as it relates to the job prospects of graduating college students who are looking for that first job. Dr. Zestos was informative as well as entertaining, prompting

excellent questions from the audience following his presentation.

The afternoon workshop sessions included a panel of recent college graduates, Jennifer Morrone (CNU), Charles Felder (Troy State) and Cherri Phillips (CNU) who spoke to students about *What to Expect After the Diploma*. A concurrent session was offered on *Business Etiquette and Dress for Success*, presented by Ann Small, Virginia Employment Commission.

The final session of the day was *Tips for Effective Networking*. This session, sponsored by the Hampton Roads Chapter of the Conference of Minority Public Administrators, was presented by Geraldine Hunt, Norfolk State University and Eva Bland, City of Hampton. This prepared students for the final event of the day, an *Open Forum*, where students were given the opportunity to network with various public administration professionals representing the following fields: Finance, Accounting and Budgeting, Engineering, Public Works, Sanitation and Waterworks, Social Services, Public Safety, Museums and Parks and Recreation, City Planning, Codes Enforcement, Housing and Neighborhoods, Human Resources and Economic Development. Thanks to the cities of Poquoson, Hampton, Newport News, and Virginia Beach and the counties of York and James City for their participation in this event.

We are looking forward to next year's event and have begun planning for it already. The Chapter will begin working with Geraldine Hunt to help us host the 2003 event at Norfolk State University. Look for news on the **2003 Professional Forum for Students - Public Service: How Will You Contribute?** sometime next summer.

First Annual Holiday Social

The Hampton Roads Chapter of ASPA hosted a Holiday Social on November 22nd at the historic Boxwood Inn in Newport News. The setting was festive for the 30 or so folks who braved the cold to be with friends and family. The food and drink were delicious and the CNU Jazz Ensemble, conducted by Bill Brown, provided second-to-none entertainment.

We would like to see this become an annual tradition and watch it grow throughout the years. So, make sure you make the event next year which will prove to be even bigger and better!

Facilitated Dialogues on Transportation Take Place in Newport News

Submitted by Bob Glover, Executive Director, DSC Community Mediation Center

On Tuesday evening, Dec 10th, community volunteer mediators served as facilitators and table moderators as over 50 citizens at the Newport News American Legion Post in Denbigh participated in a lively discussion about transportation project planning and how to pay for them in the Hampton Roads area.

This event was hosted by Delegate Glenn Oder R-Newport News with support by Joel Rubin of Rubin Crawley Associates. Joel Rubin and Del Oder asked the Center to assist in organizing a facilitated dialogue to best achieve citizen input.

The Center was able to modify the format to maximize the time for the citizens to discuss and organize their top three transportation issues and top three ways to pay for transportation

solutions. The Center's services were provided gratis.

There were five tables and each table presented their top three ideas and ways to pay for it. Then, these were mapped (collated) and then all the participants had three dots they used to vote on their preferences. This was followed by a panel discussion among the elected representatives with the citizens.

There were a number of very special guests there including Sen. Marty Williams, Del. Thelma Drake, Sheila Noll (York County Board of Supervisors) and Del. Phil Hamilton. The sense was that this type of initiative should be done in all HR communities. One comment was that if "they" could spend some \$ 2million on a bad "transportation referendum campaign" then surely they ought to find a way to organize a better process like this for greater public participation.

The feedback from facilitators was that citizens were just thrilled to have a chance to have their ideas and input heard, organized, presented and prioritized while they could see their elected officials getting this feedback. Now that's democracy!

Remember to mark you calendars for February 11th, ODU Constant Convocation Center 8.30 am - 5.00 pm where we will host the 1st Hampton Roads Community Solutions Conference. More conference info at: www.conflictcrushers.org and click on Community Solutions "get the details here" in the middle of the page.

Hampton Roads Cities Receive State Awards

The Hampton Roads Cities of Portsmouth and Virginia Beach were recently awarded two of the 2002 Virginia Municipal League (VML) Achievement Awards. Portsmouth received the

President's Award for Entrepreneurial Government and Virginia Beach received the communications award. The winners were presented their awards at the VML's annual conference banquet October 22 in Norfolk.

Portsmouth was chosen for the President's Award because it used a strong network of neighborhood groups and civic leagues to gain support for the plan for funding repairing a deteriorating water and sewer system. In spite of being one of the most fiscally challenged cities in the state, City leaders persuaded Portsmouth's residents to invest in the much needed repairs to the infrastructure.

Virginia Beach received the open communications award for creating and publishing its "Beach" magazine. This color magazine is effectively used by the City to communicate the vision and goals of the City Council to it businesses and citizens. Most work is done in house and each quarterly issue costs about 50cents per household.



**Let there be peace on Earth
this holiday season!!**